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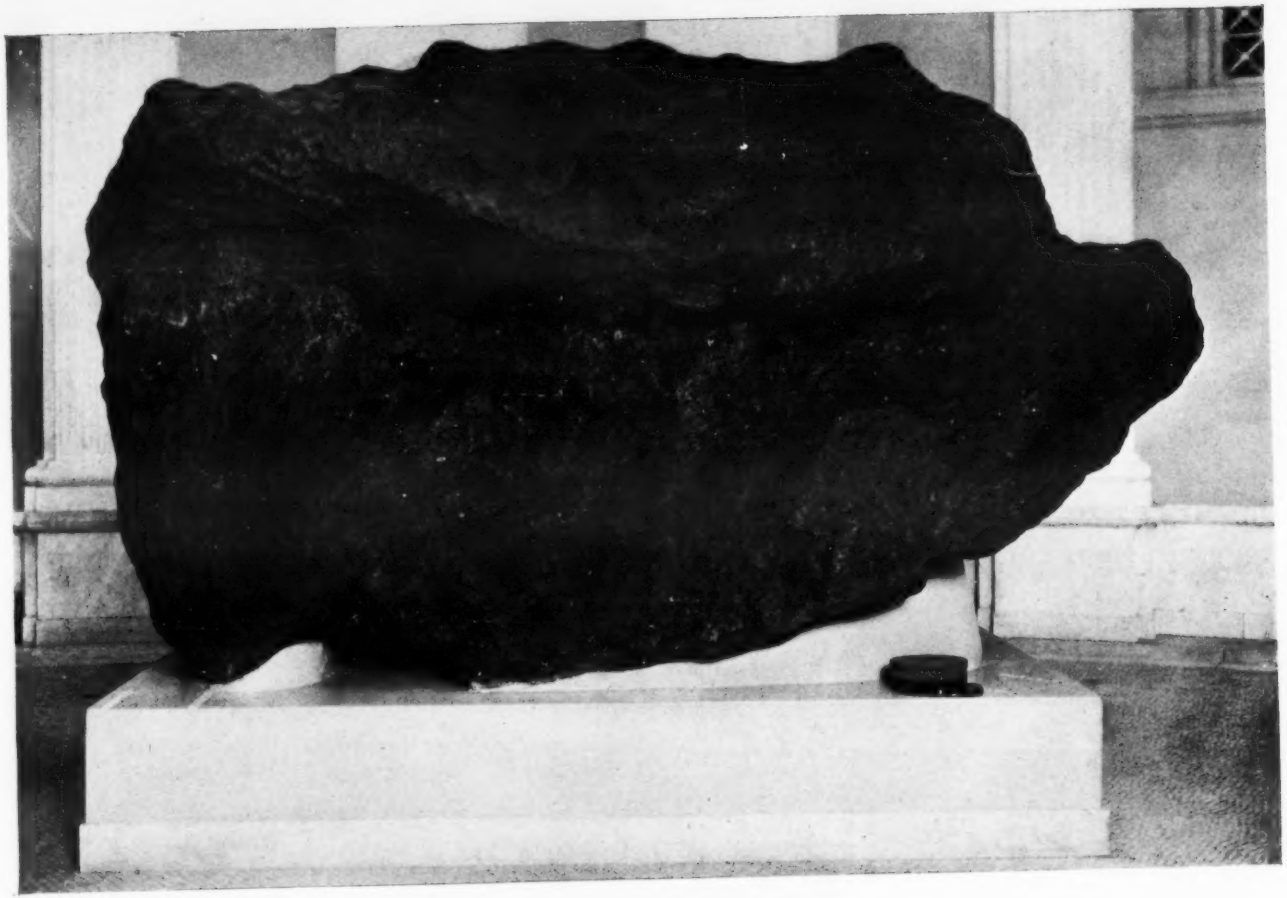
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY was established in 1869 to promote the Natural Sciences and to diffuse a general knowledge of them among the people, and it is in cordial coöperation with all similar institutions throughout the world. The Museum authorities are dependent upon private subscriptions and the dues from members for procuring needed additions to the collections and for carrying on explorations in America and other parts of the world.

The membership fees are,

Annual Members.....	$ 10	Fellows.....	$ 500
Life Members.....	100	Patrons.....	1000

All money received from membership fees is used for increasing the collections and for developing the educational work of the Museum.

The Museum is open free to the public on every day in the year.



AHNIGHITO, THE GREAT CAPE YORK METEORITE

The American Museum Journal

VOL. VII NOVEMBER, 1907 No. 7

AHNIGHITO, THE GREAT CAPE YORK METEORITE.

LAST month mention was made in the JOURNAL of the removal of the Great Cape York (Greenland) Meteorite "Ahnighito" from the archway in front of the building to its permanent resting place in the Foyer. This month we present as our frontispiece an illustration showing the iron in position. Like the Willamette meteorite on the other side of the entrance, it rests on a solid pedestal of concrete which has been built up through the floor from the rock beneath the cellar. Thus the supports of these heavy masses of iron are entirely independent of the building, and no jarring can cause them to threaten the safety of the structure.

COLLECTIONS FROM THE CONGO.

THROUGH negotiations recently carried on with the Belgian authorities, arrangements have been made to establish in the Museum an extensive exhibition illustrative of the ethnic and zoölogical conditions of the Congo region in Africa. The proposition to establish such a permanent exhibition in New York City has appealed so strongly to King Leopold that he has authorized the government of the Congo Free State to open a special credit to aid in its formation. Two large shipments comprising more than 1500 specimens have already been received.

It is planned to devote two halls of the new wing of the American Museum, now in process of construction, to African ethnology. The Congo section will be beautifully decorated with frescoes showing the scenery and with real examples of the flora and fauna of the country, so that the specimens illustrating human life will appear in surroundings appropriate to the different tribes they represent. Some of the groups

will be reproductions of the magnificent life-like figures in the Tervueren Museum, near Brussels, and all will have the appearance of animation, as they will portray the natives engaged in hunting and in their ordinary peaceful occupations. When the great number and diversity of the tribes in Central Africa, both in the valleys and on the uplands are considered, the scope for picturesque display may be realized.

In addition to the ethnological specimens, M. Liebrechts, secretary general of the Congo Department of the Interior, has promised the most complete data possible in the shape of photographs, statistical documents and samples of exported products, together with the entire series of the scientific publications of the Congo Independent State.

On its part, the American Museum of Natural History will send out expeditions to procure specimens illustrating fully the animal and plant life of this region. It will also collect all available data from independent trustworthy sources, concerning the Congo State, its discovery, history, resources and administration, so that all sides of the question will be presented for the examination of those interested.

The continent of Africa is being so rapidly opened up to occupation by civilized peoples that it is of the highest importance, from the point of view of the ethnologist, that collections be made without delay illustrating the life and the history of the savage and semi-savage tribes now living there. Hence the material recently received from the Congo, together with that which has been promised and that which had been obtained from East Africa and elsewhere will form an extensive and comprehensive collection which will probably, in a comparatively few years, be unique and of inestimable value.

A COLLECTION FROM THE TUKÁNO INDIANS OF SOUTH AMERICA.

THE Museum acquired in September a large amount of ethnological material from the Tukáno Indians of South America, the result of an eight-month sojourn of the well known scientist and collector, Mr. Hermann Schmidt, among the almost unknown people of the Rio Caiarý-Uaupeś, a tributary of the Rio Negro in the State of Amazonas, Brazil. The locality is so remote from civilization, and the difficulty and danger incurred in reaching it are so great,

on account of the numerous waterfalls and rapids of the rivers, which are the only highways, that many of the inhabitants had never seen a white man before Mr. Schmidt's arrival, and their mode of life and customs have probably changed but little since the beginning of the historic period in South America.

The primitive condition of the Tukáno Indians gives particular value to this collection of their household utensils, implements of war and the chase, clothing, ceremonial objects and ornaments, since these

SKETCH MAP OF NORTHWESTERN SOUTH AMERICA
The region occupied by the Tukáno Indians is along the Caiary-Uaupes River near the cross (+)

objects throw light on some pages, at least, of the history of the aborigines before the advent of white men.

By far the most striking specimens in the collection are the pieces of feather-work, of which there are about three hundred, consisting of a great variety of head-dresses, waist-bands, ornaments for the legs and arms and plumes to be carried in the hand. These ornaments are never worn except on ceremonial occasions, and then only by the men, the women wearing little clothing and but few ornaments. The feathers used in making these objects are largely from the red and blue macaw, various members of the parrot family, and a species of the heron. In looking at this collection of feather-work one is astonished

at the delicacy and artistic beauty of the different objects and the surprising knowledge of color effects shown in the combinations of the feathers.

Some other notable objects in the collection are spears, shields, bows, arrows, blow-guns with their poisoned arrows, fish traps of basketry and numerous baskets in varied forms. Among musical instruments there are drums, rattles in many forms, pan-pipes and whistles made of deer and jaguar bones. A series of curious specimens illustrates the method of smoking the native tobacco. A cigar from ten to fifteen inches long and about an inch in diameter is made by rolling tobacco in a wrapper of bark and is fastened between the prongs of a wooden cigar-holder. The holder, which is about two feet long, exactly resembles a tuning fork in shape, except that the handle is longer and is sharpened to a point. After lighting the cigar, the Indian sticks the sharp end of the holder into the ground and lies at ease in his hammock, reaching out from time to time to draw in a whiff of smoke from the big cigar.

C. W. MEAD.

THE PRONGHORN, OR AMERICAN ANTELOPE.

THE Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana* Ord) belongs to a family of its own, combining features of the deer tribe with those of the goat and antelope, and is one of the most beautiful and interesting of our large game animals. It lives on the open rolling plains of the Western States, where at one time it was to be found in bands of hundreds or even thousands. No animal on the American continent compares with the Pronghorn in speed and keenness of vision, but, although very wary, the innate curiosity of the beast often leads to its destruction. A waving handkerchief or anything which excites its interest will frequently draw it within rifle-shot, and, like the buffalo, it has been reduced in numbers until only a few scattered herds remain.

A peculiar feature of the Pronghorn is its two white rump-patches which may be raised or lowered at will and are used as signals, for on a bright day the disc gives flashes of light which can be seen at a long distance. This odd habit, called "flashing," is illustrated in the photographs and by the young male in the group. Unlike other hoofed animals, the horns of the antelope are placed directly above the eye, and

111 PRONGHORN, OR AMERICAN ANTELOPE

Group in East Mammal Hall, No. 207 of second floor

have a bony core from which the outer covering is shed annually. The core itself always remains in place.

THE NEW HALL OF RECENT FISHES.

A HALL devoted to the exhibition of Fishes has just been opened to the public on the second floor of the Museum, at the extreme end of the north wing. The collection consists of a fine series of mounted skins, casts and skeletons, supplemented by colored plates of various typical and striking forms. It is intended (1) to give a synoptic view of the Fishes of the world based on anatomical characteristics; (2) to emphasize, by means of descriptive labels, the food-fishes and others having commercial value or striking peculiarities; (3) to bring into relief certain general features of biological significance, like variation, apparent degeneration, protective mimicry, brilliant coloration of tropical forms, and adaptation to such special conditions as food-supply and deep-sea life.

A large study-collection of alcoholic specimens supplements the exhibition series. This material is in one of the Museum laboratories, where it is available for research work by students.

THE FOREL COLLECTION OF ANTS.

Professor Auguste Forel of Yvorne, Switzerland, has just contributed an important addition to the large collection of Formicidæ already in the Museum by donating a series of some 3,500 specimens, representing about 1,400 species of exotic ants. In this collection there are nearly 800 type specimens, which are, of course, invaluable to future students. The Museum collection is now so extensive and contains so many of the 5,000 known species, subspecies and varieties of these highly variable insects that the study of additional materials from any part of the world can be undertaken here profitably and without expending time in going over the much scattered and often very inadequate descriptions of some of the earlier myrmecological writers.

PRECIOUS OPAL ON QUA

Gift of

George S. Bowdoin,

The specimen, which is twice the size of the illustration, or eigh
and one half inches wide, was found as a bowlder at Whit

OPAL ON QUARTZITE
Gift of
S. Bowdoin, Esq.

ustration, or eighteen and three quarters inches long by six
bowlder at White Cliffs, New South Wales, Australia.

THE CIRCULATING NATURE STUDY COLLECTIONS.

DURING the school year 1906–1907 the circulating Nature Study Collections were used by 660,740 pupils in the city public day schools and 79,358 pupils in the vacation schools. The demand for the sets has increased so that the Museum last summer procured an automobile to facilitate delivery to the schools. The specimens in the collections have been selected with a view to supplying material required in the Syllabus of Nature Study issued by the Board of Education, and there are now thirteen of these collections, containing in all five hundred sets. The collections and the number of pupils in the ordinary schools using them are shown in the following list:

Collections.	No. of Pupils.
Native Birds. Adapted for Grades 1A–4B:	
Owl Set — Containing owl, chickadee, nuthatch, song sparrow, kinglet	89,565
Blue Jay Set — Containing blue jay, woodpecker, crossbill, junco, English sparrow	85,882
Robin Set — Containing robin, red-winged blackbird, oriole, meadow-lark, chipping-sparrow	76,813
Bluebird Set — Containing bluebird, phœbe, barn swallow, house wren, chimney swift	66,394
Tanager Set — Containing scarlet tanager, red-eyed vireo, goldfinch, humming-bird and pigeon	64,957
Insects. Adapted for Grades 2A–5A:	
Containing cynthia and cecropia moths, monarch butterfly, etc., and typical representatives of the different groups of insects	41,327
Special Insects. Adapted for Grades 2A–5A:	
Containing life-history of cecropia moth, development of monarch butterfly, life and work of honey-bee and household insects	81,285
Mollusks. Adapted for Grades 4A and 5A:	
Containing shells of about twenty-five mollusks, including the oyster, clam and chambered nautilus	26,325
Crabs. Adapted for Grade 5A:	
Containing relatives of the common blue crab	1,830

COLLECTIONS.

	No of Pupils.
Starfishes and Worms. Adapted for Grades 4A and 5A:	
Containing typical species of the two groups . . .	24,848
Sponges and Corals. Adapted for Grades 4A and 5A:	
Containing examples of about fifteen species . . .	14,501
Minerals and Rocks. Adapted for Grades 3B and 4A:	
Containing twenty specimens of minerals and building stones	48,816
Native Woods. Adapted for Grades 2A and 5B:	
Containing elm, hickory, maple, white birch, ailantus, sweet-gum, sour-gum, chestnut, sycamore. Specimens show cross, longitudinal and oblique sections of the wood, characteristic bark, annual ring, etc.	38,197
Total number of day-school pupils	660,740

The number of schools using the collections from September, 1906, to June, 1907, was 273, distributed among the boroughs as follows:

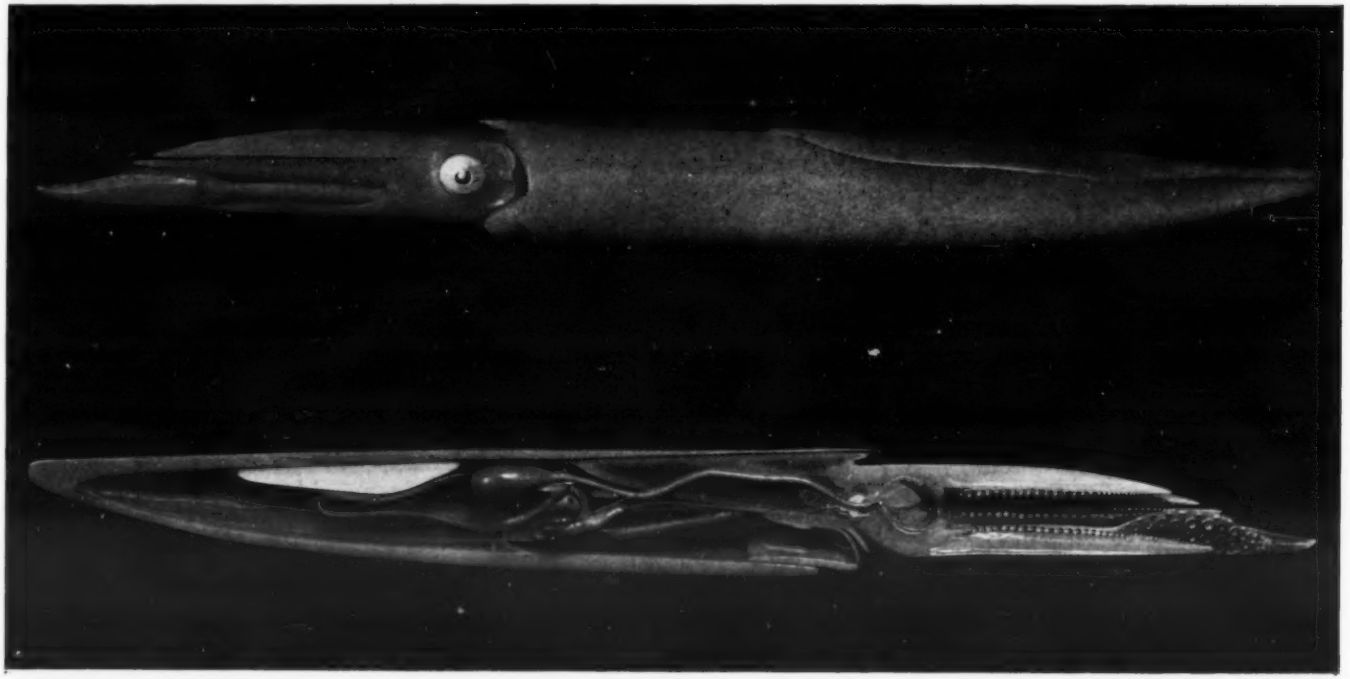
Manhattan,	125	Bronx,	24
Brooklyn,	73	Queens,	11
Richmond,	13	Corporate Schools,	27

The increase in the use of the collections by the pupils of the vacation schools has been marked and gratifying. Twenty-seven centers used the collections during July and August, 1907.

The work of the Museum in furnishing these collections to the public schools has attracted wide attention not only in this country but also in Europe, and several cities, particularly Newark, Milwaukee and St. Louis, have taken steps to introduce similar collections into their schools.

THE MODEL OF THE ATLANTIC SQUID.

THE Department of Invertebrate Zoölogy has recently placed on exhibition, in the Synoptic Hall, No. 107 of the ground floor, an enlarged model of the Common Squid (*Loligo pealii*), a marine invertebrate common off the Atlantic Coast especially about Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where it is very destructive to the herring fisheries. The model, an illustration of which is given on page



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MODEL OF THE COMMON ATLANTIC SQUID

Two views showing external features and internal anatomy. Synoptic Hall, No. 107 of the ground floor
The illustration is about one fifth as long as the model

115, was prepared in the Museum under the direction of Dr. L. W. Williams, and represents the male cut so as to show the peculiar internal anatomy of the animal. It is about twice (linear) natural size.

The Squid belongs to the Decapods, a subdivision of the Mollusks, and is closely related to the Octopus. The species represented by the model averages more than a foot in length and is somewhat cigar-shaped. It has a distinct head, furnished with a single pair of eyes which are the most perfect found among invertebrates and closely resemble the vertebrate eye itself, though originating in the embryo in a quite different way. The head is provided with a parrot-like beak, especially adapted for tearing flesh. The beak is set in a circular mouth surrounded by ten flexible arms, or tentacles, eight of which are of equal length and studded with suckers for grasping the animal's prey. The remaining two tentacles are much longer than the others and are without suckers, except on the club-shaped ends. The surface of the body is entirely covered with clusters of reddish pigmented spots known as chromatophores. These are ordinarily pale pink, but when the animal is excited, they become a deep red.

Most animals of this group are provided with an "ink-sac" which, in the case of the Cuttlefish (*Sepia officinalis*), secretes an intensely black fluid, the sepia of commerce. When the squid is startled, the "ink" is forcibly ejected from the body through a duct opening into the anus. The ink mixes with the surrounding water to form a black cloud, under cover of which the animal escapes.

The mode of progression of the Octopus and Squid is unique in the animal kingdom. The body proper is inclosed on the lower side in a "mantle cavity" to which water is freely admitted. At the entrance to this cavity is a flexible funnel or siphon with the small end pointing outward and forward. By filling the mantle-cavity with water and forcibly ejecting it through this funnel the animal is shot backward like a sky-rocket and at remarkable speed. When going forward, the mouth of the funnel is bent so as to shoot the stream of water backward.

MUSEUM NEWS NOTES.

THE permanent endowment fund of the Museum has recently been increased by a gift of $10,000 from Mrs. J. B. Trevor, and by the payment of a bequest of $25,000 from the estate of William P. Davis, Esq.

THE Department of Invertebrate Palæontology has recently placed on exhibition several interesting series of fossils. Among these may be mentioned about fifty specimens of Crinoids, or "sea lilies," from the famous beds of Lower Carboniferous age at Crawfordsville, Indiana. These are part of a particularly fine set that was received with the Cope Collection, presented to the Museum by President Jesup. Another noteworthy collection is the series of Unios from Hell Creek, Montana, presented to the Museum by Mr. Barnum Brown. These Unios are of latest Cretaceous time, that is to say they are millions of years old, but they are so much like the "fresh water clams" which inhabit the rivers and lakes of the Mississippi basin at the present time that the region in which they occur is undoubtedly the original home of our living forms. The present Unios are the shells from which are obtained the fresh water pearls of commerce. A little series of fossils from Grantland, 82° 37′ north latitude, was brought back by the Peary Expedition in 1906. The fossils are of Carboniferous age and prove the existence of a mild climate in these far northern regions in Palæozoic time.

DR. D. LE SOUËF, Director of the Zoölogical Gardens, Melbourne, Australia, and delegate of the Colonial Government to the Seventh International Zoölogical Congress, gave an illustrated lecture at the Museum on Monday evening, September 9, under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences. His subject was "The Wild Animal Life of Australia," and he presented a series of remarkable and interesting photographs illustrating the strange animals of Australia and their home surroundings. Dr. Le Souëf's collection of such photographs was made by himself and is a result of wide experience in the field. It is considered the most complete in existence.

PROFESSOR MARSHALL H. SAVILLE, Honorary Curator of Archæology, arrived in New York September 10 on his return from Ecuador, where he had devoted about three months to field work in the coast region. He had most excellent success in collecting, and obtained a large quantity of material illustrating the Pre-Columbian life of the region, a region which is practically unknown to the scientific public. Mr. George H. Pepper of the Department of Ethnology, who accompanied Professor Saville, remained in Ecuador for additional work and returned to New York October 2.

PROFESSOR HENRY E. CRAMPTON of Columbia University made a second expedition to the Island of Tahiti during the past summer in behalf of the Museum, carrying on the studies which he began last year with regard to the effect of geographical isolation as a factor in specific evolution and the determination of data relating to the inheritance of sundry specific characters.

DURING a trip to Germany last summer Professor Bashford Dean, Curator of Fossil Fishes, secured for the Museum five beautiful specimens of fossil fishes from the celebrated lithographic stone quarries at Solnhofen, Bavaria. Among these are a *Propterus*, a *Caturus* and a *Megalurus* that are hardly excelled by any similar specimens in the German museums.

H. W. SETON-KARR, ESQ., of Wimbledon, England, has presented to the Department of Archæology a splendid series consisting of seventy-one specimens of palæolithic implements collected by him in the Districts of Poondi and Cazeepet, Madras Presidency, India. These implements are of red argillaceous sandstone and were washed out of Pleistocene alluvial deposits containing quartzite boulders. These relics of the early Stone Age have been placed on exhibition in the gallery cases of the Peruvian Hall, No. 302 of the gallery floor.

A LARGE ethnological collection made in Korea in 1906 and 1907 by Dr. C. C. Vinton has been presented to the Museum. The material consists principally of vessels of glazed and unglazed pottery, many of which are of beautiful design and finish.

THE collection illustrating the culture of the Indians of the Plains has been enriched by the accession of two decorated buffalo robes from the Sioux tribe. Since the practical extermination of the buffalo twenty-five years ago such robes have become extremely scarce.

THE Department of Archæology has received from Mr. Alanson Skinner a series of specimens collected for the Museum this year in Ontario, Livingston and Erie Counties, New York, from sites formerly occupied by the Seneca and Neutral Indians of Iriquoian stock.

LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MEMBERS' COURSE.

The first course of illustrated lectures for the season 1907–1908 to Members of the American Museum of Natural History and their friends will be given according to the following programme:

Thursdays at 8:15 P. M.

November 7.— FRANK M. CHAPMAN, "Bird Studies in the Bahamas, South Atlantic States and Northwestern Canada."

November 14.— HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, "The American Museum Expedition to the Fayoum."

November 21.— EDMUND OTIS HOVEY, "A Month's Tour of the Yellowstone Park."

December 5.— HARLAN I. SMITH, "An Unknown Field in American Archæology."

December 12.— F. A. LUCAS, "The Fur Seal; its History and Habits."

PUPILS' COURSE.

Open to School Children, when accompanied by their Teachers, and to Children of Members, on presentation of Membership Ticket.

Lectures begin at 4:00 P. M.

Monday,	Oct. 28	Nov. 18.— "Among the Filipinos." By G. H. Sherwood.
Wednesday,	30	20.— "The Panama Canal." By E. O. Hovey.
Friday,	Nov. 1	22.— "Our Native Birds and Their Habits." By F. M. Chapman.
Monday,	4	25.— "Early Days in New York City." By R. W. Miner.
Wednesday,	6	Dec. 4.— "Forests and their Dependent Industries." By A. C. Burrill.
Friday,	8	6.— "Historic Scenes in New England." By G. H. Sherwood.
Monday,	11	9.— "Peoples of the Earth." By H. I. Smith.
Wednesday,	13	11.— "Scenes in Our Western States." By R. C. Andrews.
Friday,	15	13.— "Famous Rivers of the World." By R. W. Miner.

LEGAL HOLIDAY COURSE.

Open free to the public. No tickets required.

Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 3:15 P. M. EDMUND OTIS HOVEY, "The Yellowstone National Park."

PEOPLE'S COURSE.

Given in coöperation with the City Department of Education.

Tuesday evenings at 8 o'clock. Doors open at 7:30.
A course of lectures illustrated with stereopticon views.

November 5.— PROFESSOR CHARLES L. BRISTOL, "The Bermudas."
November 12.— EDWIN E. SLOSSON, PH. D., "The Panama Canal."
November 19.— PROFESSOR HENRY H. RUSBY, "The Delta of the Orinoco."
November 26.— MISS CAROLINA H. HUIDOBRO, "Typical Life in Chili."

Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock. Doors open at 7:30.
A course of three lectures by PROFESSOR SAMUEL C. SCHMUCKER.

November 2.— "Little Brothers of the Air (Birds)."
November 9.— "Modern Mound Builders (Ants)."
November 16.— "My Foster Children (Animals as Pets)."
November 23.— J. RUSSELL SMITH, PH. D., "The Story of a Steel Rail." The first of a course of four lectures on "Commercial Geography" illustrated by stereopticon views.
November 30.— "The Story of a Ton of Coal."

Children are not admitted to these lectures, except on presentation of a Museum Member's Card.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

Meetings of the New York Academy of Sciences and its Affiliated Societies will be held at the Museum during the current month as follows:

On Mondays at 8:15 P. M. The New York Academy of Sciences:
November 4.— Business meeting and Section of Geology and Mineralogy.
November 11.— Section of Biology.
November 18.— Section of Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry.
November 25.— Section of Anthropology and Psychology.

On Tuesday evenings as announced:
The Linnæan Society, The New York Entomological Society and The Torrey Botanical Club.

On Friday evenings as announced:
The New York Microscopical Society.

Full programmes of the meetings of the several organizations are published in the weekly *Bulletin* of the Academy and sent to the members of the societies. On making request of the Director of the Museum, our Members will be provided with this *Bulletin* as issued. The meetings are public.

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The American Museum Journal

EDMUND OTIS HOVEY, *Editor*

FRANK M. CHAPMAN,
LOUIS P. GRATACAP,
WILLIAM K. GREGORY, } *Advisory Board*

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